

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 /018 W
-----042666 041726Z /47

R 260727Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
DEA HQS WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 512

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAIH038R

BANGKOK PASS DEA/ADDARIO AND AIR OPNS/MOBERG
RANGOON PASS BEAN
HQS PASS EN/EVANS, ENOF/DMYLEN IG/FINK FROM SAIC WILSON

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: OPERATION PAPRIKA - GFWA-77-8009 (SAO/SEA)

1. DURING DECEMBER 1977, SW-B7-0004 REPORTED TO CMDO THE ALLEGED LOCATION OF A NARCOTIC CACHE PERIODICALLY USED BY ELEMENTS OF THE SHAN UNITED ARMY (SUA) (V) AS A HEROIN STORAGE POINT.

2. THE STORAGE SITE, A SMALL VILLAGE CALLED BAN LI LAO WAN, THAILAND, GRID COORDINATE NC 677457 (APPROXIMATE) IS IN NORTHERN THAILAND BETWEEN SUA HEADQUARTERS AT BAN HIN TAEK (NC 6739) AND THE THAI/BURMA BORDER.

3. ON 01/20/78, SW-B7-0004 ARRIVED AT CHIANG MAI LATE EVENING. HE ADVISED THAT HIS SUBSOURCE AT THE VILLAGE REPORTED THE ARRIVAL OF APPROXIMATELY 200 UNITS OF HEROIN NO. FOUR (ONE UNIT EQUALS 700 GRAMS) AND AN UNDETERMINED AMOUNT OF MORPHINE AND POSSIBLY RAW OPIUM

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ON 01/16/78.

4. THE NARCOTICS WERE ALLEGEDLY BROUGHT INTO THE VILLAGE BY 30 CHINESE HAW EQUIPPED WITH BACKPACKS AND M-16 WEAPONRY. ADDITIONALLY, 12 PACK HORSES WERE HEAVILY LOADED WITH NARCOTICS.

5. AFTER SW-B7-0004 DEBRIEFED HIS SUBSOURCE ON 01/18 AND 01/19/78, THE CI TRAVELED TO THE CMDO, ARRIVING LATE EVENING 01/20/78.

6. AFTER CMDO MET WITH CI, A MEETING WAS ARRANGED WITH THAI BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) AND ON 01/21/78 CMDO BRIEDED BPP COMMANDER GENERAL VICHAI VICHATHANAPAT AND NARCOTICS COMMANDER COLONEL SOMBOON ARYUYO.

7. DURING EVENING 01/21/78, CMDO AGAIN MET WITH SW-B7-0004 AND TRANSLATOR SW-B6-0013. QUESTIONS WERE ASKED OF THE CI THAT WERE RAISED BY BPP.

8. ON 01/22/78, CMFO AGAIN MET WITH BPP AND FINAL

OPERATIONAL PLANS WERE MADE FOR BPQ'S XOVEXENTNTO AND SEARCH OF THE TARGET AREA. ON 01/23/78, AT 0800 HOURS, COLONEL SOMBOON, THREE OF HIS BPP STAFF AIDES AND TWO CMDO AGENTS DEPARTED BPP NORTH HEADQUARTERS VIA PILATUS PORTER BOUND FOR MAE CHAN, THAILAND. MAE CHAN WAS THE COMMAND CENTER AND ABOUT 10 MINUTES, BY HELICOPTER, FROM THE TARGET VILLAGE. COLONEL SOMBOON AND THE CMDO AGENTS WERE TO WAIT AT THE COMMAND POST UNTIL THE TARGET AREA HAD BEEN SECURED.

9. UPON LANDING AT THE MAE CHAN BPP OUTPOST ON A SHORT, CONFIDENTIAL

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GRASS RUNWAY. THE PORTER PILOT EXPERIENCED SOME DIFFICULTY IN STOPPING THE AIRCRAFT ON THE QUOTE RUNWAY UNQUOTE AND A SMALL CRASH OCCURED. THE REAR WHEEL OF THE PORTER WAS SHEARED OFF AND THE AIRCRAFT WAS GROUNDED UNTIL PARTS COULD BE OBTAINED FROM BANGKOK. NO ONE WAS INJURED DURING THE LANDING.

10. AT ABOUT 0845 HOURS, THREE U.S. SUPPLIED HELICOPTERS WITH 30 BPP TROOPERS LEAD BY MAJOR CHINA WESKAWEE AND ACCOMPANIED BY A CMDO THAI INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANT DEPARTED MAE RIM BOUND FOR THE GENERAL VICINITY OF THE TARGET AREA. THE TROOPS WERE PUT INTO NC 7146 ABOUT 0945 HOURS, NORTH OF THE TARGET AND BEGAN A SWEEP TOWARD THE DIRECTION OF THE TARGET.

11. THE HELICOPTERS RETURNED TO MAE CHAN AND PICKED UP AN ADDITIONAL 30 MAN BPP FIELD TEAM. THE THREE CHOPPERS THEN RETURNED TO NC 673459, APPROXIMATE COORDINATE, WHERE THE SECOND 30 MAN TEAM RENDEZVOUSED WITH THE FIRST. DURING THE SECOND ASSAULT, TWO BPP TROOPS WERE INJURED, BROKEN ANKLES, AS THEY EXITED THE CHOPPERS WHICH WERE HOVERING EIGHT-TO-TEN METERS OFF THE GROUND.

12. AREAS SEARCHED INCLUDE NC 684456, NC 684(, NC 6745, NC 6842, NC 860462 AND THE TARGET VILLAGE. THE SEARCHES WERE NEGATIVE. ONZ BPP LEAMICAME UPON FPVA CHINESE HAW MALES, NOT ARMED, WITH 12 PACK HORSES. A SEARCH WAS MADE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

13. APPROXIMATELY 1530 HOURS, THE OPERATION WAS DISCONTINUED AND THE TEAMS REMOVED IN TWO GROUPS VIA HELICOPTER FROM A LANDING ZONE AT NC 680454.

14. ALTHOUGH THE OPERATION DID NOT RESULT IN A SEIZURE OF NARCOTICS, THE CMDO IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE BPP DID A COMMENDABLE JOB IN THEIR INTERDICTION EFFORTS.

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MANPOWER AND AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED WAS SUFFICIENT FOR THE TASK AT HAND. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT EVEN THOUGH IT WAS AN ALLEGED SUA NARCOTIC CACHE IN SUA TERRITORY, THE BPP DID NOT HESITATE TO ACT EXPEDITIOUSLY UPON THE TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE PROVIDED BY THE CMDO ONCE THEY WERE SATISFIED ALL AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE HAD BEEN RECIEVED.

TANNER

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